

Extreme Summer World Cup Fest

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany - Approximately 3,000 people from the Kaiserslautern military community turned out June 17 for the Extreme Summer World Cup Fest. The 11-hour event at Pulaski Barracks included family-oriented activities, live band performances, guest appearances by television stars and the USA-Italy game on a jumbo outdoor TV screen.

“Whoa! This is great. It’s like we’re in America,” screamed Joe Kaley and Brendan Bird in unison after the game. The pair from Denver was visiting a Kaiserslautern military community member while taking in the World Soccer Cup.

Comedian Drew Carey, who was following the U.S. team for a show on the Travel Channel, stopped by the fest to sign autographs, play in a “Human Foosball” game and even test his skills in a jousting contest.

Greg Proops, a comedian and actor who was traveling with Carey said, “It’s so amazing that there are so many Americans here. It’s such a large American city in the middle of Germany.” About 50,000 Americans are stationed at bases throughout the Kaiserslautern area, making it the largest U.S. military community outside the United States.

“We (Army and Air Force) combined a little bit of hometown America, like your county fair, with the international event of the World Cup,” said Lt. Col. Erik Daiga, commander of Installation Management Agency Europe’s Kaiserslautern garrison. The family-friendly gathering offered an alternative to late night activities in the surrounding city.

More than 60 radio, TV and print media representatives from eight countries covered the festival organized by USAG Kaiserslautern and the 431st Air Base Group. According to USAG Kaiserslautern PAO, media covering the event included Associated Press, the Travel Channel, ESPN, Eurovision Sports News and Canadian SportNet. Others came from Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.